

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner required that Applicant elect for further prosecution in the application an invention from the following three individual groupings of claims:

- I. Claims 1-9, drawn to a method of controlling self-renewal of stem cells.
- II. Claims 10-18, drawn to a composition of matter.
- III. Claims 19-22, drawn to a method of assaying the effect of a candidate compound on stem cells' ability to self-renew.

Responsive to the above-mentioned restriction requirement and subject to the following, Applicant elects Group I, corresponding to claims 1-9, without traverse.

Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the unelected and other claims in future applications, where appropriate. Although the Examiner has not identified any claim as being generic, responsive to this requirement, Applicant notes that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all limitations of the allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

Applicant has noted the Examiners comments concerning claim 10 and respectfully disagrees. However, in view of the election made herein, the Examiner's comments regarding claim 10 are considered to be moot.

No fee is believed to be required with the filing of this Response. Should any fee be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1110. Should any extension of time be required, please consider this a petition therefore and charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 11-1110.

CONCLUSION

Examination of the claims and passage to allowance at an early date are earnestly solicited.

If the undersigned can be of any assistance to the Examiner in addressing any remaining issue to advance the application to allowance, please contact the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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